

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AF-10 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /134 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8505
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL ANTI-
APARTHEID

REF: STATE 095550, GENEVA 5794

MISSION IS FORWARDING TO DEPARTMENT (SEPTTEL) TEXT OF
SPEECH DELIVERED BY HRD DIRECTOR THEO VAN BOVEN AT MARCH
21 ANTI-APARTHEID MEETING.

1. IN DISCUSSING WITH VAN BOVEN HIS REMARKS, HE READILY
ADMITTED THAT HIS COMMENTS CITED REFTTEL WERE DIRECTED AT
THE WEST. HE ALSO ADDED THAT WHILE THEY ARE HIS PERSONAL
BELIEFS, AND HE DRAFTED THE SPEECH HIMSELF, THE IDEAS
ARE IN LINE WITH U.N. POLICIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT IF
THE ENTIRE TEXT IS READ THE SPEECH IS BALANCED. INDEED,
VAN BOVEN FEELS THE IMMEDIATE SENTENCE FOLLOWING THE ONE
QUOTED IN PRESS RELEASE HR/612 STRIKES A BALANCE,
BECAUSE THE LATTER IS CRITICISM DIRECTED TOWARD THE
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

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2. THE MEETING, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY ALMOST ALL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA, INCLUDING
AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY,
U.S., U.K. AND SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, WAS UNEVENTFUL.
SPEECHES WERE FILLED WITH BORING PLATITUDES AND NONE
PRESCRIBED INNOVATIVE MECHANISMS FOR FIGHTING APARTHEID.

3. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH SEVERAL WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES, IT WAS THEIR FEELING THAT VAN BOVEN WAS PLAYING TO THE GALLERY BUT THE ENTIRE OBSERVANCE WAS SO DULL THAT VAN BOVEN'S REMARKS PROBABLY DID NOT REACH HIS INTENDED AUDIENCE. END COMMENT.VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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